



Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A process for producing polyester, ~~which comprises~~ comprising adding a polymerization catalyst described in claim 1 in a polycondensation reaction, esterification reaction or transesterification reaction between components comprising at least a polyfunctional alcohol and at least a polyfunctional carboxylic acid or ester-forming derivative of a polyfunctional carboxylic acid to produce the polyester; and obtaining the polyester, wherein the polymerization catalyst comprises an aluminum substance and a phosphorus compound, wherein the aluminum substance is selected from the group consisting of aluminum carboxylates, aluminum salts of an inorganic acid and aluminum chelate compounds, and wherein the phosphorus compound has an aromatic ring structure.

10. (Currently amended) A ~~polymerization catalyst process~~ process for producing polyester, comprising adding a polymerization catalyst in a polycondensation reaction, esterification reaction or transesterification reaction between components comprising at least a polyfunctional alcohol and at least a polyfunctional carboxylic acid or ester-forming derivative of a polyfunctional carboxylic acid to produce the polyester; and obtaining the polyester, wherein the polymerization catalyst comprises ~~comprising~~ an aluminum substance and at least one phosphorus compound, wherein the aluminum substance is selected from the group consisting of aluminum carboxylates, aluminum

salts of an inorganic acid and aluminum chelate compounds and wherein the at least one phosphorus compound is at least a phosphinic acid compound having an aromatic ring structure

11-18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently amended) A The process of claim 9, for producing polyester which comprises adding a catalyst described in claim 5 in a polycondensation reaction, esterification reaction or transesterification reaction between components comprising at least a polyfunctional alcohol and at least a polyfunctional carboxylic acid or ester-forming derivative of a polyfunctional carboxylic acid to produce the polyester wherein the phosphorus compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of the compounds represented by anyone of Formulae (1) to (3):

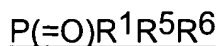
(Formula 1)



(Formula 2)



(Formula 3)



wherein R¹, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ independently represent hydrogen, a C₁₋₅₀ hydrocarbon group, and a C₁₋₅₀ hydrocarbon group containing a hydroxyl group, a halogen group, an alkoxy group or amino group, and R² and R³ independently represent hydrogen or a

C₁₋₁₀ hydrocarbon group, wherein the hydrocarbon group may contain an alicyclic structure or an aromatic ring structure.

20. (Currently amended) A The process of claim 9, for producing polyester which comprises adding a catalyst described in claim 7 in a polycondensation reaction, esterification reaction or transesterification reaction components comprising at least a polyfunctional alcohol and at least a polyfunctional carboxylic acid or ester-forming derivative of a polyfunctional carboxylic acid to produce the polyester wherein one or more metals and/or metal compounds selected from the group consisting of alkali metals or compounds thereof and alkaline earth metals or compounds thereof are used in combination with the polymerization catalyst.

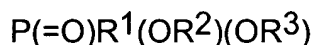
21. (Currently amended) The polymerization catalyst according to process of claim 10, wherein one or more metals and/or metal compounds selected from the group consisting of alkali metals or compounds thereof and alkaline earth metals or compounds thereof are coexistent used in combination with the polymerization catalyst therewith.

22-29. (Canceled).

30. (Currently amended) A process for producing polyester, ~~which comprises~~ comprising adding a polymerization catalyst described in claim 4 in a polycondensation reaction, esterification reaction or transesterification reaction between components

comprising at least a polyfunctional alcohol and at least a polyfunctional carboxylic acid or ester-forming derivative of a polyfunctional carboxylic acid to produce the polyester; and obtaining the polyester, wherein the polymerization catalyst comprises an aluminum substance and at least one phosphorus compound, wherein the aluminum substance is selected from the group consisting of aluminum carboxylates, aluminum salts of an inorganic acid and aluminum chelate compounds and wherein the at least one phosphorus compound is at least a phosphonic acid compound having an aromatic ring structure.

31. (Currently amended) A ~~The process of claim 30, for producing polyester which comprises adding a catalyst described in claim 6 in a polycondensation reaction, esterification reaction or transesterification reaction components comprising at least a polyfunctional alcohol and at least a polyfunctional carboxylic acid or ester-forming derivative of a polyfunctional carboxylic acid to produce the polyester~~ wherein the at least one phosphorus compound is at least a compound represented by the formula below:



wherein R² and R³ independently represent hydrogen or a C₁₋₁₀ hydrocarbon group, wherein the hydrocarbon group may contain an alicyclic structure or an aromatic ring structure, and wherein R¹ is a group having an aromatic ring structure.

32. (Canceled).

33. (Currently amended) A The process of claim 30, for producing polyester
~~which comprises adding a catalyst described in claim 14 in a polycondensation reaction,~~
~~esterification reaction or transesterification reaction components comprising at least a~~
~~polyfunctional alcohol and at least a polyfunctional carboxylic acid or ester-forming~~
~~derivative of a polyfunctional carboxylic acid to produce the polyester~~ wherein one or
more metals and/or metal compounds selected from the group consisting of alkali
metals or compounds thereof and alkaline earth metals or compounds thereof are used
in combination with the polymerization catalyst.

34. (Canceled).

35. (Currently amended) A The process of claim 31, for producing polyester
~~which comprises adding a catalyst described in claim 16 in a polycondensation reaction,~~
~~esterification reaction or transesterification reaction components comprising at least a~~
~~polyfunctional alcohol and at least a polyfunctional carboxylic acid or ester-forming~~
~~derivative of a polyfunctional carboxylic acid to produce the polyester~~ wherein one or
more metals and/or metal compounds selected from the group consisting of alkali
metals or compounds thereof and alkaline earth metals or compounds thereof are used
in combination with the polymerization catalyst.

36. (Currently amended) A The process of claim 19, for producing polyester
~~which comprises adding a catalyst described in claim 15 in a polycondensation reaction,~~
~~esterification reaction or transesterification reaction components comprising at least a~~

~~polyfunctional alcohol and at least a polyfunctional carboxylic acid or ester-forming derivative of a polyfunctional carboxylic acid to produce the polyester wherein one or more metals and/or metal compounds selected from the group consisting of alkali metals or compounds thereof and alkaline earth metals or compounds thereof are used in combination with the polymerization catalyst.~~

37. (Currently amended) The ~~polymerization catalyst according to~~ process of claim 9 4, wherein the aluminum carboxylates are selected from aluminum formate, aluminum acetate, aluminum propionate, aluminum oxalate, aluminum acrylate, aluminum laurate, aluminum stearate, aluminum benzoate, aluminum trichloroacetate, aluminum lactate, aluminum citrate, and aluminum salicylate, wherein the aluminum salts of an inorganic acid are selected from aluminum chloride, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum hydroxide chloride, aluminum carbonate, aluminum phosphate and aluminum phosphonate, and wherein the aluminum chelate compounds are selected from aluminum acetylacetonate, aluminum acetylacetate, aluminum ethyl acetoacetate, and aluminum ethyl acetoacetate di-isopropoxide.

38. (Currently amended) The ~~polymerization catalyst according to~~ process of claim 30 [[[4]]], wherein the aluminum carboxylates are selected from aluminum formate, aluminum acetate, aluminum propionate, aluminum oxalate, aluminum acrylate, aluminum laurate, aluminum stearate, aluminum benzoate, aluminum trichloroacetate, aluminum lactate, aluminum citrate, and aluminum salicylate, wherein the aluminum salts of an inorganic acid are selected from aluminum chloride, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum hydroxide chloride, aluminum carbonate, aluminum phosphate

and aluminum phosphonate, and wherein the aluminum chelate compounds are selected from aluminum acetylacetonate, aluminum acetylacetate, aluminum ethyl acetoacetate, and aluminum ethyl acetoacetate di-isopropoxide.

39. (Currently amended) ~~The polymerization catalyst according to~~ process of claim 10, wherein the aluminum carboxylates are selected from aluminum formate, aluminum acetate, aluminum propionate, aluminum oxalate, aluminum acrylate, aluminum laurate, aluminum stearate, aluminum benzoate, aluminum trichloroacetate, aluminum lactate, aluminum citrate, and aluminum salicylate, wherein the aluminum salts of an inorganic acid are selected from aluminum chloride, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum hydroxide chloride, aluminum carbonate, aluminum phosphate and aluminum phosphonate, and wherein the aluminum chelate compounds are selected from aluminum acetylacetonate, aluminum acetylacetate, aluminum ethyl acetoacetate, and aluminum ethyl acetoacetate di-isopropoxide.

40-42. (Canceled)

43. (New) The process of claim 19, wherein the aluminum carboxylates are selected from aluminum formate, aluminum acetate, aluminum propionate, aluminum oxalate, aluminum acrylate, aluminum laurate, aluminum stearate, aluminum benzoate, aluminum trichloroacetate, aluminum lactate, aluminum citrate, and aluminum salicylate, wherein the aluminum salts of an inorganic acid are selected from aluminum chloride, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum hydroxide chloride, aluminum carbonate, aluminum

phosphate and aluminum phosphonate, and wherein the aluminum chelate compounds are selected from aluminum acetylacetonate, aluminum acetylacetate, aluminum ethyl acetoacetate, and aluminum ethyl acetoacetate di-isopropoxide.

44. (New) The process of claim 31, wherein the aluminum carboxylates are selected from aluminum formate, aluminum acetate, aluminum propionate, aluminum oxalate, aluminum acrylate, aluminum laurate, aluminum stearate, aluminum benzoate, aluminum trichloroacetate, aluminum lactate, aluminum citrate, and aluminum salicylate, wherein the aluminum salts of an inorganic acid are selected from aluminum chloride, aluminum hydroxide, aluminum hydroxide chloride, aluminum carbonate, aluminum phosphate and aluminum phosphonate, and wherein the aluminum chelate compounds are selected from aluminum acetylacetonate, aluminum acetylacetate, aluminum ethyl acetoacetate, and aluminum ethyl acetoacetate di-isopropoxide.

45. (New) The process of claim 9, further comprising adding an antimony compound and a germanium compound in the polycondensation reaction, esterification reaction or transesterification reaction.

46. (New) The process of claim 10, further comprising adding an antimony compound and a germanium compound in the polycondensation reaction, esterification reaction or transesterification reaction.

47. (New) The process of claim 19, further comprising adding an antimony compound and a germanium compound in the polycondensation reaction, esterification reaction or transesterification reaction.

48. (New) The process of claim 30, further comprising adding an antimony compound and a germanium compound in the polycondensation reaction, esterification reaction or transesterification reaction.

49. (New) The process of claim 31, further comprising adding an antimony compound and a germanium compound in the polycondensation reaction, esterification reaction or transesterification reaction.